which appeared in the "Searchlight" Patna, dated the 10th July, 1985 captioned "Anti-Bihar bias alleged" giving details of reported delays by the Calcutta office of ONGC in conducting drilling operations in Bihar region;

(b) whether it is also a fact that when the Bihar operations were under Head Office the drilling was going on smoothly and huge quantity of oil was reported in Champaran district;

(c) whether it is also a fact that all these operations have come to a halt from the day these operations came under the Calcutta office; and

(d) if the answers to part (b) and part (c) be in affirmative, what step Government propose to take to explore oil in Bihar?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Gandhak Project in Bihar has been placed under Central Region of ONGC at Calcutta for administrative and operational convenience. Exploratory work in Bihar is going as per plan.

The Gandhak-I well is under testing. So far, no commercial discovery of hydrocarbons has been made in Bihar.

Waiting list for new telephone connections

675. PROF. B. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applicants on waiting list for new telephone connections in major cities having population of 5 lakhs and more;

(b) the maximum waiting period in each case;

(c) whether Government are taking any action to reduce the waiting period to at least below two years; and

(d) what are the major hurdles in expanding the telephone facilities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b) This information is given in the Statement (*See below*)

(c) Every effort is being made to reduce the waiting period as minimum as possible. In the 7th Plan period it is proposed to provide telephone connections practically on demand, if sufficient resources are made available to the Department.

(d) The major hurdles in expanding telephone facilities in the country are as follows:—

(i) Paucity of funds-always a major huddle. Even for the year 1985-86 allocation has been slashed down drastically.

(ii) Inadequate production capacity of switching equipment and cables in the past.

Statement

Sl. No.	City	Waiting list as on 31-3-1985	Earliest applications pending since
1	Vijayawada	4,498	March, 1980
2	Hyderabad	31,661	July, 1977
3	Visakhapatnam	2,764	May, 1980
4	Patna	3,211	Feb., 1981
5	Jamshedpur	510	March, 1979.
6	Ranchi	1,017	March, 1979
7	Delhi	1,31,862	Jan., 1965.
8	Ahmedabad	27,473	January, 1980.
9	Surat	19,329	May, 1978.
10	Rajkot	7,353	August, 1979.
11	Vadodara	12,836	Sept., 1979.
12	Bangalore	20,759	July, 1979.
13	Calicut	2,824	Oct., 1979.
14	Cochin (Ernakulam)	6,664	Aug., 1980.
15	Trivandrum	3,931	Feb., 1980.
16	Indore	7,860	May, 1981.
17	Bhopal	3,047	March, 1981.
18	Gwalior	1,557	Feb., 1981.
19	Jabalpur	1,1480	Feb., 1981.
20	Bombay.	1,66,153	April, 1971.
21	Pune	18,968	Jan., 1980.
22	Nagpur	6,666	March, 1980.
23	Sholapur	1,552 (1.7.85)	Dec., 1981.
24	Amritsar	5,788	April, 1979.
25	Jullundur	5,998	Feb., 1979.
26	Ludhiana	11,378	July, 1979.
27	Jaipur	8,233	July, 1981.
28	Jodhpur	2,759	May, 1980.
29	Madras	33,242	Febuary, 1978.
30	Coimbatore	6,547	March, 1979.
31	Tiruchirapalli	1,525	Feb., 1983.
32	Madurai	2,631	January, 1982.
33	Salem	883	August, 1980.
34	Kanpur	7,343	August, 1979.
35	Lucknow	1,579	Feb., 1983.
36	Agra	3,283	March, 1980.
37	Allahabad	1,389	May, 1980.
38	Meerut	4,536	March, 1978.
39	Varanasi	2,653	Oct., 1979.
40	Calcutta	26,550	June, 1966.
41	Bareilly	576	March, 1983.